

REMARKS

The office action of August 29, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Weyer et al.

Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Weyer et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1-2.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that the patent to Weyer et al. discloses a method for adjusting a continuous casting installation roll segment. Weyer et al. do not disclose or suggest installing the roller segments in the hot bar zone,

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and/or the soft reduction zone and operating the roller segments by an automatic segment control system and a basic automation system so that the method is applied to roller segments of continuous bloom and billet casting machines, as in the presently claimed invention. The roller segments of Weyer et al. are installed in the cold bar zone, they are not installed as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 1-3(a) over the above-discussed reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 31, 2007.

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